

# Mid-Ohio District News



Open Hearts,  
Open Minds,  
Open Doors...

The people of the  
United Methodist  
Church

Visit our website at [www.eocumc.com/mid-ohio](http://www.eocumc.com/mid-ohio)

December 2023

## 2024 District Office Administrators Announced for the Four New Districts

The district office administrators for the four new districts have been determined and they will transition to their new roles on January 1, 2024. The four new administrators were identified through a process in which all eight current administrative assistants were invited to apply for the four new positions. All those who applied were interviewed by members of the Cabinet and Executive Staff Team on Tuesday, November 14.

The district office administrators for the new districts are:

Megan Myers - Central Valley

Lisa Huston - Northern Waters

Joy Snyder - South Forest

Renee Davis - West Plains

While the exact locations of the new district offices have not been determined yet, the Cabinet has identified that: the office for the Central Valley District will be in the North Canton area; the office for the Northern Waters District will be in the Macedonia/Solon area; the office for the South Forest District will be in the Cambridge area; and the office for the West Plains District will be in the Mansfield area.

The administrative assistants who will not be continuing with the Conference will remain in their current roles until January 31, 2024, to help in the closure and transition of district offices and will be given severance packages as an expression of gratitude for their faithful work and dedication.

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### 2024 Apportionments

As the East Ohio Conference moves from 10 districts to four the district finances will be moved into the Conference budget. The amount of your church's 2023 district and 2023 Conference shared ministry dollars will be combined to determine the amount of your church's 2024 shared ministry apportionments.

**2023 District Apportionment + 2023 Conference Apportionment = 2024 Apportionment**

Your church's faithful giving to shared ministry apportionments in 2024 will continue to fund programming to help ensure that lives will be impacted and communities transformed through the love of Jesus in the new year. Thank you for your continued support of our shared ministry giving!





## Bishop Tracy S. Malone Becomes the First Black Woman Elected President of the Council of Bishops

Bishop Tracy S. Malone, the area bishop of the East Ohio Conference, was elected president of the Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church during the bishops' meeting at Lake Junaluska Assembly.

She becomes the first Black woman to be elected to lead the more than 110 bishops in the global denomination that includes Africa, Asia, Europe and Americas.

Also elected were:

- President - Designate: Bishop Ruben Saenz
- Secretary: Bishop L. Jonathan Holston
- Executive Secretary: Bishop Gregory V. Palmer
- Co-Ecumenical Officers: Bishop Hope Morgan Ward and Bishop Rosemarie Wenner
- Past President: Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton

The current officer holders are Bishop Bickerton, president; Bishop Malone, president-designate; and Bishop Holston as secretary. The new officers will take office at the middle of the General Conference in 2024.

The executive secretary serves as the operations officer of the Council and works closely with the Secretary to monitor actions of the Council and Executive Committee. The ecumenical officer is responsible for relationships with other Churches and/or ecclesial bodies. Both serve four-year terms and take office on Sept. 1, 2024. Bishop Bruce Ough and Bishop Sally Dyck are the current position holders.



The People's Book is an ever expanding audio Bible narrated by Black, Brown, Asian and Indigenous voices.

### Bishop Tracy S. Malone Narrates Book of Ephesians

The People's Book is an ever-expanding audio Bible narrated by Black, Brown, Asian and Indigenous voices. Produced by Friendship Press and The National Council of Churches, The People's Book is a landmark new audio project featuring dynamic readings of scripture by the Church's most powerful communicators. In this new audio book Bishop Malone narrates the Book of Ephesians.

"The Book of Ephesians has become one of my favorite books of the Bible because it teaches and reminds us of our belovedness in Christ Jesus, and how this love ought to be manifested in and through our lives and relationships," Malone shared.

[Learn about The People's Book  
Bishop Malone Narrating Ephesians](#)

Bishop Tracy S. Malone narrates the book of Ephesians in a new audio Bible from Friendship Press and the National Council of Churches!

Listen to Bishop Malone read one of her favorite books of the Bible, and hear it's message of our belovedness in Christ and how to live out this love in the world around us!





## Advance Special Applications

Every year the East Ohio Conference Mission Awareness Committee approves Advance Specials from among submitted applications. The application for 2024-25 Advance Specials, are available for download on the Conference website and are due by January 15, 2024.

As an Advance Special of the East Ohio Conference, your mission or ministry will be assigned an EOCUMC fund number for donor-directed giving through the Financial & Administrative Services office. That fund number will be added to the list of Advance Specials posted on the East Ohio Conference website and published in The Conference Journal and promoted in our 600+ local churches.

If you have any questions about Conference Advance Specials, please [e-mail Rev. Kathy Dickriede](#), Mission & Community Engagement director in the Connectional Ministries office. She can also be reached by phone at 330-499-3972 ext. 114.

[Donate to a 2023-24 EOC Advance Special](#)

[Access the 2024-25 Advance Special Application](#)

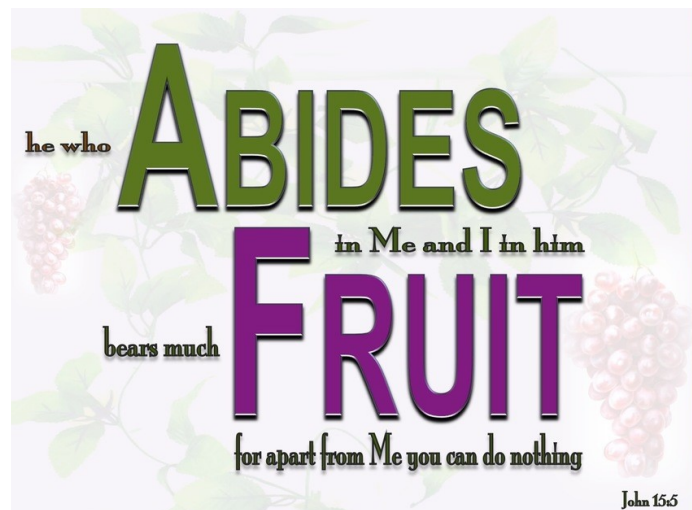
MISSIONS  
...at home and around the world



### “Abide” Youth Leaders Retreat - January 1-20

Youth workers, pastors, volunteers, and teams who work with youth and young adults in The United Methodist Church are invited to the Youth Leaders Network 24-hour retreat beginning 7:00 p.m. on Friday, January 19 and concluding at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 20. We will explore practical ways to grow in discipleship, using simple tools to help both students and leaders mature in faith. This will be a great

opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals who have a passion for student ministry where you can build relationships, share ideas, and grow together. Our theme this year is “Abide” (John 15:5). Come and enjoy fellowship and support with intentional time set aside to be renewed and refreshed. The retreat will be held at the Embassy Suites Akron Canton Airport (7883 Freedom Ave. NW, North Canton) and the cost per person to attend is \$85 for a double-occupancy room, \$165 for a single-occupancy room, or \$35 for commuters.



[Learn more and register on the Events Registration page of the EOC website.](#)



# CLERGY SPOUSE

## Retreat

WANAKE CAMP & RETREAT CENTER  
BEACH CITY, OHIO

MARCH 1- 3, 2024

### Save the Date & More Info to Come

[Tickets for The Retreat for Clergy Spouses in Beach City from Ticketleap](#)

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors... The People of the United Methodist Church

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### Contact Us

Articles for the district newsletter must be submitted by the 15th of each month and are subject to editing and availability.

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Please help us be better stewards of our resources and read the newsletter via email or on the website and let us know to remove you from the postal mailing list.

Thank You!

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